

## ABSTRACT

A method for scanning a message-list accessible to a plurality of processors includes retrieving, from a cache associated with a scanning processor from the plurality of processors, information identifying a starting message-slot. This information is then used to begin a scan of the message-list at that starting message-slot. The information indicating the starting message-slot is obtained by identifying, in the message-list, a message-slot containing a message intended for a recipient processor from the plurality of processors and obtaining, from the identified message-slot, information indicative of a location of a succeeding message-slot in the message-list. This information is then cached, for retrieval during a subsequent scan of the message-list.

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